



"Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now"

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The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published each Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc., 415 N. Killingsworth St., P.O. Box 5455, Portland, OR 97228. Telephone (503) 285-5555. E-mail: info@theskanner.com World Wide Web site: <http://www.theskanner.com> Fax: (503) 285-2900

The Skanner is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

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Cuffed

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spect, disinterest and kids who basically don't care," Bernstein said.

Experts and educators point to a number of factors that lead to the arrests: Some officers are operating without special training. School administrators are desperate to get the attention of uninvolved parents. And overwhelmed teachers are unaware that calling in the police to defuse a situation could lead to serious criminal charges.

"I have had some concern for a while that the schools have relied a little too heavily on police officers to handle disciplinary problems," said Darrel Stephens, a former Charlotte, N.C., police chief and executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

There is little national data to back those assertions; no numbers are tracked nationally on how often police are called in to arrest students. Whether the children are actually charged and saddled with criminal records varies by case

and jurisdiction. Some youngsters are charged with felonies. Some are freed without further incident. Others receive tickets.

In Milledgeville, Ga., a city of 18,000 some 90 miles from Atlanta, Salecia Johnson was accused of tearing items off the walls and throwing books and toys in an outburst Friday at Creekside Elementary. Police said she also threw a small shelf that struck the principal in the leg, and jumped on a paper shredder and tried to break a glass frame.

Police didn't say what set off the tantrum. Baldwin County (Ga.) schools Superintendent Geneva Braziel called the student's behavior "violent and disruptive" and said the police were needed to keep the student, other classmates and the school staff safe.

Salecia was handcuffed and taken away in a patrol car to the police station, where she was taken to a squad room and given a soda, police said. She won't be

charged with a crime.

In Florida, the use of police in schools came up several years ago when officers arrested a kindergarten who threw a tantrum during a jelly bean-counting contest. A bill was proposed this year to restrict police from arresting kids for misdemeanors or other acts that do not pose serious safety threats.

In Connecticut, court officials began tracking student arrests after becoming concerned about referrals for minor offenses. Since last March, nearly 1,700 students were arrested, almost two-thirds of them for breach of peace, minor fights and disorderly conduct.

In Texas, a December report from the nonprofit Texas Appleseed, a public interest group, says more than 275,000 non-traffic tickets are issued to juveniles each year. While it is unclear how many are written at school, the group says the vast majority are for offenses most commonly

linked to incidents like disrupting the class and disorderly conduct.

Texas Sen. John Whitmire said educators and police need to better distinguish between who they are afraid of and who they are mad at.

"If you are afraid of someone because they bring a gun or drugs, of course we come down hard," Whitmire said. "It's the kids that just make you mad that you don't need to make a crime."

In Albuquerque, which started tracking arrests after noticing more minor cases coming from schools, more than 900 of the district's 90,000 students were referred to the criminal justice system in the 2009-2010 school year. Of those, more than 500 were handcuffed, arrested and brought to juvenile detention, officials said. More than 200 were arrested for minor offenses, including disorderly conduct.

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Guns

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in seven weeks in Washington state and the second involving a law enforcement officer's child.

On March 10, the 7-year-old daughter of a Marysville police officer was killed when her brother found a gun in the family car. A Snohomish County sheriff's probe into that shooting, involving Officer Derek Carlile's daughter Jenna, is "still an open investigation," sheriff's Lt. Brent Speyer said Tuesday.

Jenna Carlile was shot with a gun belonging to the officer, but it wasn't his duty weapon, authorities have said.

Spokane police waited until Tuesday to announce the shooting to allow the sheriff's office to "have an opportunity to investi-

gate" and to allow O'Connell to care for his daughter, Spokane Police Chief Scott Stephens told reporters.

Officers are required to keep their weapons secure, Stephens said. Spokane police-issued handguns are either .40- or .45-caliber, but The Spokesman-Review reported it was not immediately clear what type O'Connell had.

Sheriff's officers began their investigation Sunday, Chamberlin said, adding "it's hard to determine how long it will take."

The officer has been decorated multiple times and was honored in 2007 when he and a fellow officer rescued a man with a gunshot wound from an apartment building. But he also has a history of

internal affairs investigations, police officials said Tuesday.

Stephens did not provide details of any internal investigations but told The Spokesman-Review there was nothing similar to the nature of the current investigation. DeRuwe did not immediately return a call from the AP.

In the other recent shootings, prosecutors have said the mother of 3-year-old Julio Segura-McIntosh left him unrestrained March 14 in a car in Tacoma after she placed a pistol under the driver's seat. The boy fatally shot himself in the head when the woman went to get food.

The mother, Jahnisha McIntosh, 23, and her boyfriend, Eric Vita, 22, have both pleaded not guilty

to second-degree manslaughter charges.

On Feb. 22, an 8-year-old girl was critically wounded by a gun that went off in a classmate's backpack in a Bremerton school.

The girl, Amina Kocer-Bowman, was released April 3 from a Seattle hospital. The 9-year-old boy who brought the gun to school has written her an apology letter as part of the sentence he received when he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges stemming from the shooting.

The Kitsap County prosecutor has charged that boy's mother and her boyfriend with felony assault.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEATTLE 2012



If you have an event you want to share with the community, email it two weeks in advance to *The Skanner* at info@theskanner.com

Thursday April 19

SHOETIME: BEN GUEST (USA 2011) DOCUMENTARY: The friendship of four young black women from rural Mississippi trying to win a basketball state championship. General admission is \$8.00, Youth and Seniors \$5.00. 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 17th Ave. S. For more info call 206-684-4758.

Friday April 20

JULIA ALVAREZ READS DROM A WEDDING IN HAITI AT THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY: Author Julia Alvarez will read and share photos from her new novel, *A Wedding in Haiti*. 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave, Level 1, Free for all to enjoy.

Saturday April 21

32ND ANNUAL CARKEEK PARK EARTH DAY CELEBRATION: This is a one-time 3 1/2 hour volunteer event. There will be activities for all to enjoy. Donuts and coffee will be served to all who volunteer. 8:30 a.m. - Noon Carkeek Park Environmental Learning Center, 950 Carkeek Park Rd.

Friday - Sunday April 27 - 29

BOOK ON OVER TO WARREN G. MAGNUSON PARK FOR THE MINI BOOK SALE: Approximately 25,000 items will be up for sale to the public at bargain prices. Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 7400 Sand Point Way N.E. Building 30 Workshop.

Saturday April 28

GLENDALE LUTHERAN CRAFT AND PLANT SALE: Arts & Crafts, variety of indoor and outdoor plants and planters, lots of unique gift items. Free admission, noon - 5 p.m. 13544 2nd Ave. SW.

FREE GUIDED TOURS OF KUBOTA GARDEN: Learn about the history and features of this unusual Japanese American Garden. 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Kubota Garden, 9817 55th Ave. S.